

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for collecting information about a network's operation,
2 wherein the network includes a plurality of devices, the method comprising
3 using peer-to-peer communication among a plurality of devices in the network
4 to obtain a measure of the network performance.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 using a numerical value to represent a characteristic of a first device in the
3 network;
4 using a second value to represent a characteristic of a second device in the
5 network; and
6 using a correlation matrix to combine the first and second values to obtain a
7 measure of the network's performance.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 obtaining a measure of a plurality of characteristics of a first device in the
3 network;
4 using the measured plurality of characteristics to generate a value, wherein the
5 value includes one or more of the following: a measure of the operation of devices associated
6 with the first device, a measure of the utilization of one or more resources of the first device,
7 a measure of the response speed of the first device, a measure of the optimization of the
8 network.